

Letter to Conservative MPs

*Address your email to Mr./Ms. MP's last name. Emails use this format: firstname.lastname@parl.gc.ca. Letters can be mailed postage-free to the **House of Commons**, Ottawa, Ontario, Canada K1A 0A6. Snail mail is more effective than email; but please consider doing both. A full list of MP's and their contact information can be found [here](#).*

Dear Mr., Ms. (MP's last name),

With the upcoming election focussed on the important issues of environment, trade, tariffs, and sovereignty, we may lose sight of an issue which effects not only individuals but communities, societies, and our economy: income security.

Current income support programs are costly to administer, often dysfunctional and paternalistic, and they keep a sizable proportion of their recipients (and their kids) perpetually in poverty and dependent on government assistance. The affordability crisis is compounding these problems. I

am writing to you to make you aware of the report [A Proposal for a Guaranteed Basic Income for PEI](#). This report is the result of two years of work by experienced economists, former public servants and federal and provincial (PEI) politicians. It was non-partisan with participation from all political parties. This Guaranteed Basic Income (GBI) proposal honours individual choice, motivates people to file their tax return, simplifies income support, is non-judgmental, has a very marginal negative impact on labour supply (may, indeed, improve the calibre and quality of the labour pool over the long term as people upgrade their education and credentials), and is likely to reduce public expenses for healthcare and the justice system.

As well, because it is recommending the census family unit be used to determine family income, the report has brought down the cost of a GBI by 40% while better targeting income support to those who need it most. The recent PBO report on GBI uses a comparable family unit (economic family) and its cost reduction estimates validates the PEI report. Indeed, the report indicates that poverty levels in PEI could be reduced from 9.7% to 2.1% with no one living in deep poverty.

This report is recommending the establishment of a 5-7 year demonstration project for a GBI in PEI to verify the modelling of the report and to show that a GBI is a better approach to supporting low income working-age Canadians; significantly reduces poverty while simultaneously improving their lives and livelihoods; infuses money into our local businesses; and the cost to the public treasury will be less in the long term. The report clearly indicates that a GBI is an economically and socially better way to reduce, if not, eliminate poverty in Canada—an outcome that will help all of us.

Please read the report and support the PEI project. Our team is available to answer any questions you have.

(Your name, address, postal code)